

November 27, 2012

Location: Ms. Nancy Library

Meeting started at 6:45pm

SOPA Meeting Notes

Thank you to Smoke City Market and Domino's Pizza for providing dinner for tonight's meeting.

Family Night at Smoke City Market – Tue., Dec. 4th from 5 - 8pm

Smoke City Market provided dinner this evening. Amy asked that everyone attend the next family night as a way of thanking them for catering the SOPA meeting for free. Family night is scheduled for Tue., Dec. 4th from 5-8pm. Smoke City Market will donate 15% – 20% of the proceeds back to the school if you mention you are from SOEC. Please be sure to thank all the businesses that sponsor the school, we encourage you to visit their establishments and let them know that SOEC thanks them for supporting our children's education. Smoke City Market is located at Van Nuys and Chandler at 5242 Van Nuys Blvd.

Winter Sing Date Change

The date for Winter Sing has changed to Tue., December 11th at 8:45am.

Music Appreciation Week – Feb. 1st

Maria announced that we will be having our 4th annual music appreciation week the last week in January. She is looking for parents to volunteer during the week to help with the master class workshops, both as musicians and to help with logistics. If you are a musician or parent and would like to volunteer, please contact Maria Chester at m13chester@gmail.com

Super School Session 2

Super School session 2 registration is open and is accessible via the school website at: www.shermanoakselementarycharter.com. If you have any suggestions, ideas for new classes or comments about existing classes, please contact Jessica at superschool@shermanoaksparents.com.

Annual Fund/Great Wall of Tigers Update

Andy Berenson announced the Annual Fund, our biggest fundraiser for the year, has now raised about \$35,000 so far. Andy encouraged everyone to donate before the next Phone-a-thon scheduled for January from 6:30 to 9:00. Car magnets are ready for pick-up if you have made your donation.

Andy is looking for suggestions for this year's restaurant for those who donated \$1,500 or more. He is also looking for suggestions on how to raise more money with the annual fund. You can contact Andy at andy@shermanoaksparents.com.

Annual Fund Benefits

There are many benefits to giving beyond improving the education your child receives. To receive the benefits below, the donations needs to be submitted by Jan. 31, 2013. The donation levels with benefits are:

- \$100 donation: SOEC car magnet

- \$500 donation: A tile for their family to decorate at a party, which will then go on the Great Wall of Tigers and the SOEC car magnet.
- \$1,000 donation: Two tiles to decorate and the SOEC car magnet
- \$1,500 donation: An elegant dinner and wine pairing party as well as all the previous benefits.

If you work for a company that matches charitable donations, that matching gift will count towards the benefits. So if you donate \$250 and your company matches \$250, your family is entitled to receive a tile on the Great Wall of Tigers. There will be more information distributed in the next few months. If you have questions or to make a pledge, email donate@shermanoaksparents.com.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Don Lukenbill gave a recap on this charitable giving event. The drive is designed to help families at SOEC that are in need of extra help for the holiday. Thanks to the donations from families, we were able to help 19 families and collected \$400 in cash. Thanks to Andrea and Don for chairing this event.

Holiday Toy Drive

Our next charitable giving drive is the Holiday Toy Drive. This year we are doing 'adopt-a-family'. Children will be making cards, arranging baskets, and becoming involved with the children they are giving toys to. For more information or if you would like to help, please contact Ronna Elbaz at ronna@shermanoaksparents.com.

Spring Gala – Sat., April 13th at Braemar Country Club

Stella and Ronna, the chairs for the gala, announced the theme of this year's gala, Monte Carlo Night. The event will be held at Braemar Country Club and will feature a live and silent auction, casino tables for gambling, dinner and dancing. This year, we will be auctioning off photography similar to last year. But, this year you can pre-order photos and preview them before buying them. If you would like to help out with the gala this year, please contact Stella at stella@shermanoaksparents.com.

Kids Center Winter Camp

Kids Center will be holding a camp over the winter break from Dec. 17th to Jan. 4th. The camp has many field trips planned, including ice skating and going to the movies. Children from outside SOEC can also attend. Forms are available at Kids Center. For more information, please contact Kids Center at dweigold@shermanoaksparents.com.

Earning for Learning

With the Earning 4 Learning Program, twenty local schools compete for cash prizes between \$100 and \$2500 from the Westfield Fashion Square Mall. All you need to do is shop at the Fashion Square Mall from November 1st through April 30th and then log your receipts at the concierge desk. Just tell the concierge you want to log receipts for Sherman Oaks Elementary Charter. **All receipts logged in the month of January receive double points, so please shop now, hold on to your receipts, and log any time in January.** You can also drop your receipts in the Earning 4 Learning box in the front office, and we will log your receipts for you. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope, if you'd like your receipts returned to you.

Sunday, December 9th, is a triple point day. If you shop at the Fashion Square Mall on December 9th and log your receipt on the same day, you will receive triple points for all your purchases. On any other shopping day,

save your receipts for double points in January. If you are purchasing gift cards this holiday season, **give the gift of an American Express Westfield Fashion Square Mall gift card**. 1000 bonus points are awarded for each gift card purchased plus points are received for the cash value placed on the card. The cards can be used not just at the mall but anywhere American Express is accepted. You can purchase gift cards at the concierge desk. Be sure to log your receipts or save them to log in January to receive these bonus points.

Last year we came in third place and earned \$1500 for the school. In the past, we have used Earning 4 Learning awards to purchase improvements for our computer lab including: a color laser printer, keyboards and keyboard protectors, wireless networking, headphones, and more. For more information, visit the Earning 4 Learning website at <http://www.shoppingpartnership.com/points/westfieldfashionsquare.htm>. If you have any questions, please contact Mariana Rodrigues at mariana@shermanoaksparents.com.

Ralphs and Vons Rewards

Debbie encouraged everyone to sign up or renew their Vons and Ralphs card. Every time you shop at Ralphs, Vons or Pavillions, you can designate that SOPA get a percentage of the sale. For more information, please visit the school website at the following link: shermanoakselementarycharter.com/donate/shopping/

Good Search Fundraising

Rachel Brachman told everyone about Good Search and that SOPA gets a penny every time you use Good Search. And, if you are shopping online, 1%-3% of your purchase, if you go through Good Search, is donated back to SOPA. This includes purchases on Amazon.com. The link for Good Search is <http://www.goodsearch.com/> and select "Sherman Oaks Elementary Charter" before you shop.

Box Tops Update

Sharon Matsumoto gave an update on the Box Tops fundraising program. We will be collecting box tops all year long. If you don't feel like ripping off the box tops, Sharon will do it for you. Please drop your box tops off in the school office. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon at Sharon@shermanoaksparents.com.

After School – New Equipement/Games

Caryn Adams would like to have new Karem Boards donated to the after school program. Amy directed her to the beautification committee who can help her with this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm